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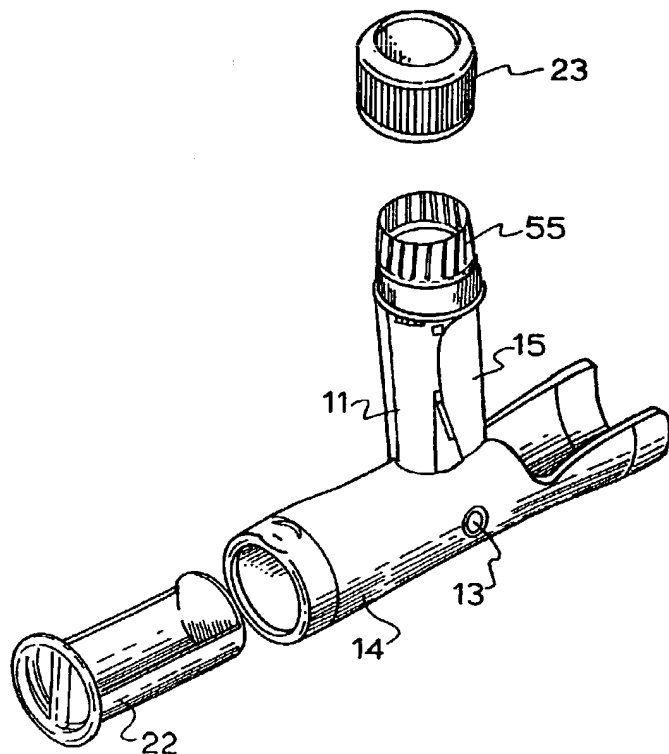
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- (71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: **BYRNE, Paul** [AU/AU]; Suite 5, 5th Floor, 29 George Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4000 (AU).
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- (72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **DAVIDSON, Martin, Fitzroy** [AU/AU]; 48 Robertson Street, Torbanlea, QLD 4662 (AU).
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PRO-TECTOR MATE PTY LTD** [AU/AU]; Suite 56, 5th Floor, 29 George Street, BRISBANE, Queensland 4000 (AU).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A SUPPORT FOR A FISHING ROD



(57) Abstract: A support for a fishing rod comprising: (a) a first portion (11) adapted to be located at a proximal end of a fishing rod (b) and a second portion (14) pivotally connected (at 13) to the first portion (11) and adapted to move from a first position where it is aligned with the shaft of the fishing rod to a second position where it is substantially at right angles to the shaft wherein the first portion (11) includes an inner core portion (15) and the second portion (14) includes a sleeve portion which is adapted to fit over the inner core portion (15) such that the outer edge portions of the sleeve portion engage with the inner core portion (15) to retain the second portion (14) in the first position (11).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

A SUPPORT FOR A FISHING ROD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates primarily to recreational fishing.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

10 A common fishing accessory is the leather waist holder. This has a pouch in which the base of a fishing rod is able to be seated. The pouch serves as a fulcrum and a cushion when the base of the fishing rod is moved up and down by the fisherman holding the fishing rod with one hand and winding the reel with the other. Without the waist holder the fishing rod would rest directly against the fisherman's stomach. This would obviously be uncomfortable and reduce control over the fishing rod.

15 The leather waist holder however does suffer drawbacks. One of these is that the base of the fishing rod must always remain in the pouch and therefore cannot be moved with respect to the waist of the person. Instead the person must move around in order to change position of the fishing rod.

20 The present invention is aimed at providing an alternative method of supporting a fishing rod against a person's waist region.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 According to the present invention there is provided a device for a fishing rod comprising a first portion adapted to be located at a proximal end of a fishing rod and a second portion pivotally connected to the first portion and adapted to move from a first position where it is aligned with the shaft of the fishing rod to a second position where it is substantially at right angles to the shaft of the fishing rod, wherein the first portion includes an inner core portion and the second portion includes a sleeve portion which is adapted to fit over the inner core portion whereby outer edge portions of the sleeve portion engage with the inner core portion to retain the second portion in the first

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position.

Preferably the edge portions of the second portion are separated by a distance less than the outer diameter of the inner core portion.

5 It is preferred that the space between the outer edge portions of the second portion is less than the maximum width of the inner core portion.

Preferably the edge portions of the second portion are resiliently movable.

10 It is preferred that the sleeve portion snap-fits over the inner core portion.

Preferably the sleeve portion has a curvature of greater than 180° from one edge portion to the opposite edge portion.

15 Preferably each edge portion curves inwardly from a proximal end of the sleeve portion.

Preferably the inner core portion extends greater than 180° around the periphery of the first portion.

20 Preferably the first portion comprises a partial peripheral sleeve extending from one edge of the inner core portion to an opposite edge of the inner core portion.

Preferably the partial sleeve portion has a greater outside diameter than the inner core portion.

25 The partial peripheral sleeve preferably curves outwardly from the proximal end of the device to a rearward end of the first portion.

30 It is preferred that the device comprises a fishing rod connection portion which is adapted to couple a fishing rod to a proximal end of the device.

Preferably the fishing rod connection portion comprises a tubular gripping member and a tightening member which is adapted to tighten the gripping member around the external surface of a fishing rod or a component connected or connectable to a fishing rod.

35 Preferably the device is adapted to be connected to the proximal end of the fishing rod.

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Alternatively the device is permanently fixed to the fishing rod or part of it.

The second portion may be generally symmetrical with respect to a pivot pin which connects it to the first
5 portion.

The second portion preferably comprises an elongate member.

The second portion may include a sleeve portion which is adapted to fit over part of the first portion
10 when the second portion is in the first position.

It is preferred that the sleeve portion has a peripheral wall with a channel opening which is adapted to receive part of the first portion therein.

The sleeve portion preferably comprises a cover
15 which covers part of the first portion.

Preferably the sleeve portion comprises an arcuate wall.

The second portion may include side portions located on opposite sides of the pivot.

20 One side portion may include the sleeve portion.

The other side portion is preferably tubular.

The other side portion preferably includes a receptacle which is adapted to receive articles.

The other side portion preferably includes a
25 closure for the receptacle.

The first portion preferably comprises a partial peripheral surface which is adapted to form a substantially continuous peripheral surface with the peripheral surface of the sleeve portion when the second
30 portion is in the first position.

The first portion may be adapted to be screwed onto the proximal end of the fishing rod.

Alternatively the first portion may be adapted to incorporate a tubular portion which fits over the end of a
35 fishing rod and is able to be secured thereto by an appropriate attachment means such as a screw-on collar.

According to an alternative embodiment the device

includes a central protrusion which is adapted to fit inside a central passage at the end of the fishing rod and is able to be secured in position by an appropriate fixing means.

5 A fixing means may be glue.

According to another embodiment of the invention the pivot includes a pin through a lug of the first portion and two lugs of the second portion with the two lugs being located on either side of the first lug.

10 According to a further embodiment the inner core portion includes a coupling means for coupling with part of the sleeve portion to thereby retain the sleeve portion closed in an inoperative position.

15 The coupling portion may include male or female portions on the surface of the inner core portions.

The coupling portion may include one or more ridges on the surface of the inner core portion.

Coupling between the inner sleeve portion may be achieved by interengaging coupling portions.

20 It is preferred that the second portion includes a supporting surface which is adapted to be pressed against the waist region of a person to provide leverage for a fisherman reeling in a fish.

25 The words "comprising, having, including" should be interpreted in an inclusive sense, meaning that additional features may also be added.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with
30 reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1A shows a top view of a first embodiment of a device for supporting a fishing rod when in a non-operating position;

35 Figure 1B shows a cross-sectional top view of the device shown in Figure 1A;

Figure 1C shows a front view of a tightening nut for the device shown in Figure 1A;

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Figure 2A shows a disassembled version of the device shown in Figure 1A when in an operating position;

Figure 2B shows a perspective view of the device shown in Figure 1A;

5 Figure 2C shows a top view of a support of the device shown in Figure 1A;

Figure 2D shows an end view of a main body part of the device shown in Figure 1A;

10 Figure 2E shows a perspective view of the main body part shown in Figure 2D;

Figure 2F shows a top cross-sectional view of a variation of the device shown in Figure 1A;

15 Figure 3 shows a top view of a device for supporting a fishing rod according to a second embodiment of the present invention when in an operative position;

Figure 4 shows the device shown in Figure 3 when in a storage position;

20 Figure 5 shows a top view of a device for supporting a fishing rod according to a third embodiment of the present invention, when in an operative position;

Figure 6 shows the device shown in Figure 5, in an angled view;

Figure 7 shows the device shown in Figure 5 when in a storage position;

25 Figure 8 shows a perspective view of a fishing rod incorporating a device similar to the first or third embodiments of the invention;

30 Figure 9 shows a top view of a device for supporting a fishing rod according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention when in a storage position;

Figure 10 shows the device shown in Figure 9 when in an operative position;

Figure 11A shows a side view of a device according to a fifth embodiment of the invention;

35 Figure 11B shows a top view of the device shown in Figure 11A; and

Figure 12 shows a perspective view of a device

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according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

As shown in Figure 2A the device 10 consists of a generally cylindrical main body part 11 with one end provided with a peripheral thread 12 and the opposite end connected through a pivot pin 13 to a generally cylindrically shaped body support 14.

The main body 11 has a cylindrical tubular inner core 9 and a partial peripheral sleeve 15 which extends around less than half of the core 9 on the left side thereof (when viewed from above). The rest of the core 9 remains uncovered. An opening is provided in the forwardmost end to receive a fishing rod butt end.

The pivot pin 13 extends vertically through a rearwardly extending lug portion 18 which is generally planar and of reducing width from a forward end 16 extending from core 9 to a rearward end having an eyelet for receipt of the pivot pin 13. The lug portion 18 is aligned with the central axis of the inner core 9 and is generally planar with its narrow edge face extending vertically in parallel with the pivot pin central axis.

The body support 14 consists of a generally cylindrical tube with lateral vertical holes through its centre for receipt of pivot pin 13 of the main body part 11.

When viewed from one side as shown in Figure 2C the forward end of the body support 14 (the left side) has a cut out section leaving a partial sleeve portion 19 which has a shaped outer edge which is configured to be complimentary to the outer edge of the partial peripheral sleeve 15 of the main body part 11.

The radius of curvature of the sleeve portion 19 is configured to be slightly greater than that of the inner core 9 so that it is able to snap-fit over the top of the exposed inner core 9 and remain snap-fitted to it in a closed position. To enable this snap-fitted locking of the body support 14 to the main body part 11, the

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sleeve portion 19 has a degree of resilience which enables it to expand slightly as upper and lower edges 7 and 8 close over the top of the inner core 9.

As shown in Figure 1A the sleeve portion 19 has a curvature of greater than 180° so that the distance between edges 7 and 8 is less than the inner diameter of the body support 14. In addition the edges 7 and 8 curve inwardly from the forward most end 6 of the body support to a point close to the central axis of the body support 14 before again curving sharply outwardly around the inner end of the peripheral sleeve 15 of the main body part 11.

Rearwardly of the sleeve portion 19 the body support 14 has a generally constant outer cylindrical diameter which may flare slightly outwardly from the central region to the outermost end 20 in a similar fashion to the forwardmost end.

As shown in Figure 2C the body support 14 also includes a central slotted aperture 4 which extends rearwardly from a central part of peripheral edge 4 which follows the outer edge of peripheral sleeve 15. This slot 4 extends rearwardly beyond the mid point of the body support 14 to allow entry of the lug portion 18 and pivot pin 13.

It is noted that the edges 7 and 8 may be formed as one or more resilient gripping portions which enable the sleeve 19 to snap-fit to the inner core 9.

The rearward end 20 of the body support 14 is preferably hollow as shown clearly in Figure 2A and is able to receive a semi-cylindrical draw 22. This draw 22 fits into a cylindrical compartment accessible through the rearward end 21 of the body support 14 and having a closed or blind forward most end 3 which is located adjacent the pivot pin 13. The draw 22 may be designed to receive fishing accessories or any other articles.

It may also be used as an ashtray.

The draw may be screwed into the end 21 or may be snap-fitted thereinto.

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The opposite end of the main body part 11 has the peripheral thread 12 which is configured to receive a tightening nut 23. The forward most end of the main body part 11 is also provided with a hollow resiliently expandable or contractible bushing member 55 having axially extending gripping teeth or segments on its inner surface which are able to grip the butt end of the fishing rod inserted therethrough. By tightening the locking nut 23 over the external thread on the forward most end of the main body part 11 the locking nut 23 is able to squeeze the bushing 55 so that its gripping teeth close and engage upon the outer surface of the butt end of the fishing rod. In this manner the fishing rod is able to be securely held by the device 10.

The bushing member may be replaced by an equivalent annular formation of axially extending gripping portions extending forwardly from the forwardmost end of the external thread.

Accordingly to an alternative method of attaching the device to a fishing rod a reducing nut may be screwed onto the forward most end of the device 10 either by engagement with an outer thread of the device or an inner thread of the device. The butt end of the fishing rod can then be provided with a threaded collar which allows the collar to be screwed into or over the top of the forward most end of the device 15.

According to another embodiment of the invention the butt end of the fishing rod may be inserted directly into the hollow forward end of the device 15. Thus as shown in Figure 2F the device 15 may be provided with an inner female thread 56 which engages with a male thread 57 of a bushing screwed onto the end of a fishing rod 58. A reducer nut may be threaded into engagement with the female thread 56 to allow alteration of the size of the inner diameter of the device 10 and thus to allow for receipt of different sized butt ends of fishing rods.

The inside of the device 10 at the forward end

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may also be provided with a flared inner tubular member which is configured to receive butt ends of fishing rods of different outer diameters. By tightening an external nut or bushing around the outer surface of the flared
5 tubular member the walls of the tubular member can be made to open or close around the outer surface of the butt end of the fishing rod.

According to another embodiment of the invention the device may be configured to receive a fishing rod
10 which is provided with a hollow proximal or butt end with an internal thread.

The shape of the support 14 may be changed to suit different applications. Thus as an example the rearmost side of the support 14 may be flatter or may be
15 provided with cushioning portions.

Because of the snap-fit locking provided between the body support and the main body 11, a fisherman is able to quickly pivot the body support 14 by simply pressing end 21 at an angle against their body. This eliminates
20 any problems associated with having to lock and unlock components before pivoting can occur. This minimises the risk of losing a fish because of the time factor with pivoting the body support to its operable position.

The threaded end 12 of the device 10 would be
25 screwed into the end of the fishing rod 23 so as to be securely attached thereto.

When the fishing rod is not being used the body support 14 is pivoted about pivot point 13 so that its central longitudinal axis is effectively the same as that
30 of the cylindrical body 11. As shown clearly in Figure 1A sleeve portion 19 and peripheral sleeve 15 together form a generally continuous outer surface which is intended to be an extension of the fishing rod.

When the fishing rod is being used and typically
35 after casting has occurred the body support 14 may be pivoted at 90° with respect to the cylindrical body 11 to the position as shown in Figure 2A. Proximal side 22 of

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the body support 14 is able to be rested against the waist region of the fisherman and thus provides support for the fishing rod particularly during reeling in of the fish.

Because the body support 14 is pivotally attached
5 to the cylindrical body 11 the fishing rod may be moved from side to side as well as up and down with respect to the support 14.

Because of the large surface area provided by side 22, minimal discomfort is experienced by the
10 fisherman when a fish is being reeled in.

According to another embodiment of the invention the device may include a locking means to lock the support 14 at 90° with respect to the cylindrical body 11 (as well as the fishing rod.)

15 It is preferred that the locking means consists of the pivot pin and a thread provided through one hinge portion 60 of the body support 14. By having the lower end of the pivot 13 pin provided with a peripheral thread the pivot pin may be tightened by a screwdriver or similar
20 device to reduce its ability to pivot. A similar effect may also be provided by having the head end of the pivot pin provided with a short threaded section which enables the pin to be threaded into a receiving housing portion of the body support 14.

25 The way in which the device is attached to a fishing rod may also be varied. For example the device may be permanently attached to the end of the fishing rod 23 or alternative coupling systems such as a bayonet connection may also be used.

30 As shown in Figures 3 and 4 the device may also be modified according to the second embodiment by incorporating two support sections 30, 31 which are separately pivotable to left and right sides respectively of fishing rod 32. A central pivot pin or bolt 33 enables
35 both sides 30 and 31 to be pivoted together so that they are each axially aligned with the central longitudinal axis of the fishing rod 32.

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The device shown in Figures 3 and 4 may also incorporate a cylindrical end section which is attachable to the proximal end of a fishing rod in a similar fashion to that described in relation to the first embodiment.

5 The third embodiment of the device shown in Figures 5 to 8 incorporates similar support 40 to support 14. Like the first embodiment a pivot pin 41 is centrally located through support 40 to enable it to pivot 90°. In contrast to the first embodiment the support 14 is
10 pivotally connected through central pivot 41 to opposing axial wall segments 42, 43.

The length of these wall segments 42, 43 is sufficient to enable one side of the support 40 to rotate 90° from its operative position shown in Figure 5 to a
15 position where it is located between wall segments 42, 43 and axially aligned therewith. In this position shown in Figure 7 generally continuous peripheral surface is provided which appears as an extension of the proximal end of the fishing rod to which it is attached.

20 The fishing rod end 44 of the wall sections 42 may be provided with a peripheral thread or any other, suitable way of connecting the device to the proximal end of the fishing rod.

Figure 8 shows the device 39 in an operative
25 position when connected to a fishing rod 45.

According to the fourth embodiment of the invention the device 50 shown in Figures 9 and 10 may consist of two generally similar cylindrical sections 51, 52 connected together through a pivot 53. A support wall
30 54 is permanently affixed to a proximal side of section 52 and has a length which is the combined length of both sections 51 and 52.

Section 51 may be tubular so as to fit over the proximal end of a fishing rod or may incorporate a
35 threaded section or similar so that it may be affixed to the proximal end of a fishing rod.

As shown in Figure 9 in the storage or stowed

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away position sections 51 and 52 are axially aligned with the fishing rod shaft. In this position the support surface 54 runs along the left hand side of sections 51 and 52.

5 In operation the section 52 is pivoted to the right at 90° with respect to section 51 and support 54 consequently is also pivoted at 90° with respect to section 51. The device 50 is then able to be used in a similar fashion to that described in previous embodiments.

10 A fifth embodiment of the device shown in Figures 11A and 11B incorporates the feature of a telescopic main body part 211. A fishing rod is held in the opening at the front of the main body part 211 according to any one of the attachment methods previously described.

15 Stop pins 230 may be incorporated to provide a lowermost limit against which the butt end of the fishing rod strikes full. Typically the main body part 211 consists of an inner and outer cylindrical section 231, 232. Typically a fishing rod is held within the inner
20 cylindrical section 231 and this inner section 231 is able to be extended or retracted from within the outer cylindrical section 232. At the bottom end of the main body part 211 a split lock washer 233 is provided to lock the relative position between the inner and outer
25 cylindrical sections 231 and 232. Tightening may therefore be provided by simply rotating the inner cylindrical section relative to the outer cylindrical section 232.

30 Rearwardly extending lug portion 218 is aligned along the central axis in a similar fashion to previous embodiments.

 The inner cylindrical section 231 may also be provided with an internal thread to enable attachment of a fishing rod or an intermediate connecting member such as a
35 reducing nut.

 A fishing rod may be attached to the device according to any one of the embodiments previously

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described. An intermediate member such as a metal or fibreglass rod may also be connected to the butt end of the fishing rod by tightening an expandable/contractible bushing over the butt end using a tightening nut and
5 fastening the opposite end of the rod to the device in a similar fashion. Alternatively the rod may be provided with reducing or expansion nuts at either end which can then be screwed onto or into the device and likewise into or onto the butt end of the fishing rod. By having a
10 telescoping ability the device enables the length of the fishing rod to be extended or reduced to a desired length depending upon the particular fishing application.

It should also be noted that the device may incorporate a number of telescoping sections so as to
15 provide a considerable extension to the length of a fishing rod connected thereto.

Figure 12 shows a device according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention when in an operating position. The main body part 311 is much longer than in
20 previous embodiments and incorporates an internal thread along a major part of its length. The peripheral sleeve 315 also has straight edges which are aligned with the central longitudinal axis. Likewise the edges of the sleeve portion 319 are also straight so as to abut neatly
25 against the edges of the peripheral sleeve 315.

In each of the embodiments described above it is noted that one part of the device remains generally axially aligned with a fishing rod, while the other part is pivotable at 90° so as to support the fishing rod
30 against the waist region of a fisherman.

It is also noted that various accessories may be added to the device including a torch which is connected to the external surface thereof.

It is to be understood that, if any prior art
35 publication is referred to herein, such reference does not constitute an admission that the publication forms a part of the common general knowledge in the art, in Australia

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or in any other country.

CLAIMS

1. A device for a fishing rod comprising a first portion adapted to be located at a proximal end of a fishing rod and a second portion pivotally connected to the first portion and adapted to move from a first position where it is aligned with the shaft of the fishing rod to a second position where it is substantially at right angles to the shaft of the fishing rod, wherein the first portion includes an inner core portion and the second portion includes a sleeve portion which is adapted to fit over the inner core portion whereby outer edge portions of the sleeve portion engage with the inner core portion to retain the second portion in the first position.
2. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the edge portions of the second portion are separated by a distance less than the outer diameter of the inner core portion.
3. The device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the space between the outer edge portions of the second portion is less than the maximum width of the inner core portion.
4. The device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the edge portions of the second portions are resiliently movable.
5. The device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the sleeve portion snap-fits over the inner core portion.
6. The device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the sleeve portion has a curvature of greater than 180° from one edge portion to the opposite edge portion.
7. The device as claimed in claim 6 wherein each edge portion curves inwardly from a proximal end of the sleeve portion.
8. The device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the inner core portion extends greater than 180° around the periphery of the first portion.
9. The device as claimed in claim 8 wherein

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the first portion comprises a partial peripheral sleeve extending from one edge of the inner core portion to an opposite edge of the inner core portion.

10. The device as claimed in claim 9 wherein
5 the partial sleeve portion has a greater outside diameter than the inner core portion.

11. The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein
the partial peripheral sleeve curves outwardly from the proximal end of the device to a rearward end of the first
10 portion.

12. The device as claimed in claim 1 or 10
comprising a connection portion for a fishing rod, which connection portion is adapted to couple a fishing rod to a proximal end of the device.

13. The device as claimed in claim 12 wherein
15 the connection portion comprises a tubular gripping member and a tightening member which is adapted to tighten the gripping member around the external surface of a fishing rod.

14. The device as claimed in claim 12 wherein
20 the connection portion comprises a tubular gripping member and a tightening member which is adapted to tighten the gripping member around the external surface of a component for connection to fishing rod.

15. The device as claimed in claim 13 wherein
25 the second portion is generally symmetrical with respect to a pivot pin which connects it to the first portion.

16. The device as claimed in claim 13 wherein
the second portion comprises an end chamber which is for
30 storage of items.

17. The device as claimed in claim 16 wherein
the second portion includes a part cylindrical member which is received within the chamber.

18. The device as claimed in claim 1 wherein
35 the first portion includes a proximal end of a fishing rod.

19. The device as claimed in claim 18 wherein

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the device is integrally formed with the proximal end of a fishing rod.

20. The device as claimed in claim 1 or 12 wherein the first portion includes at least one
5 telescoping member which is attachable to a proximal end of a fishing rod.

21. The device as claimed in claim 1 or 12 wherein the first portion includes at least one
telescoping member which is integrally formed with the
10 proximal end of a fishing rod.

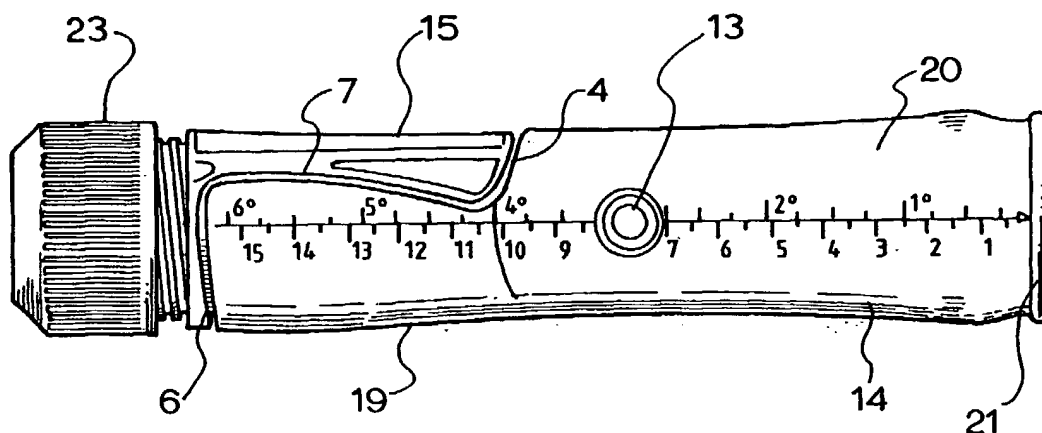


FIG. 1A.

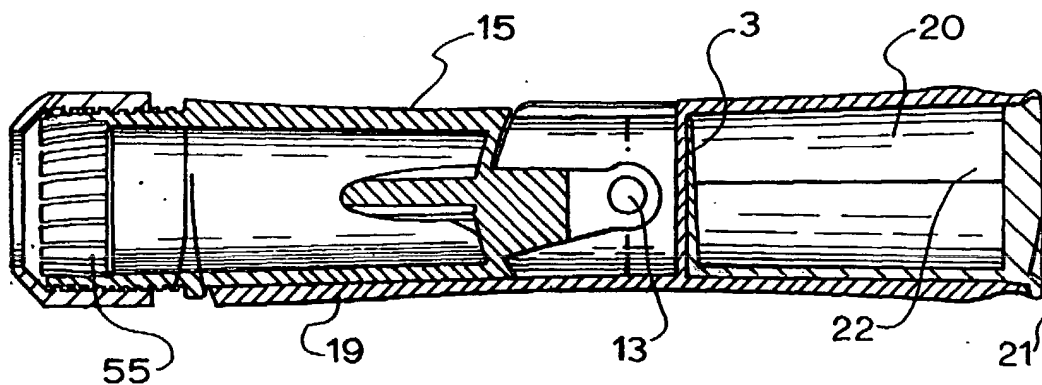


FIG. 1B.

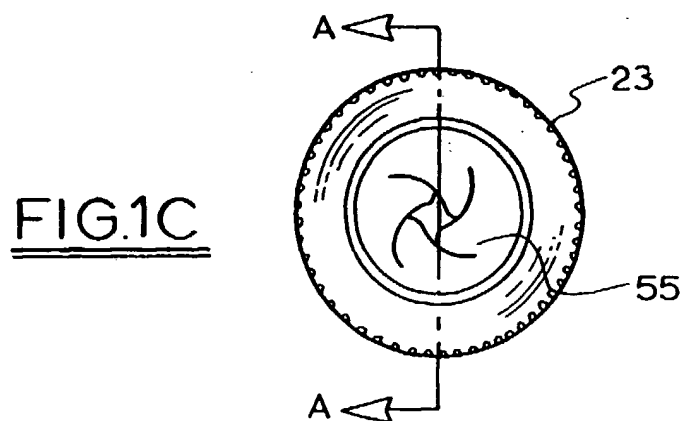


FIG. 1C

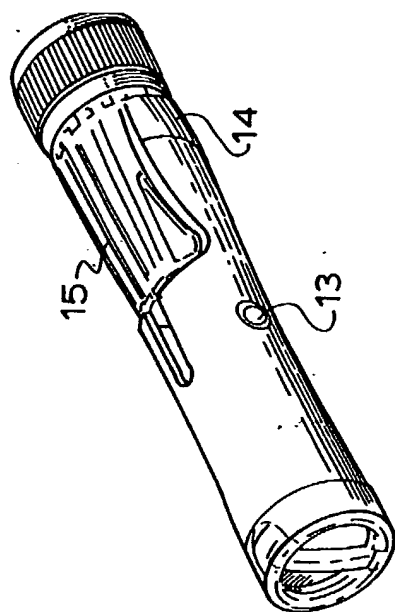


FIG. 2B.

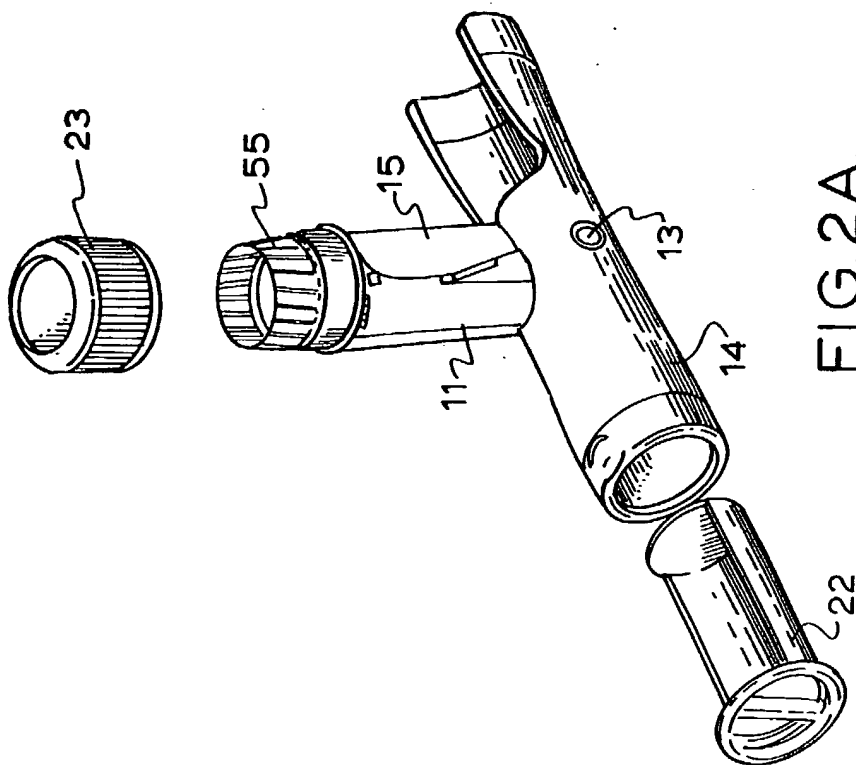


FIG. 2A.

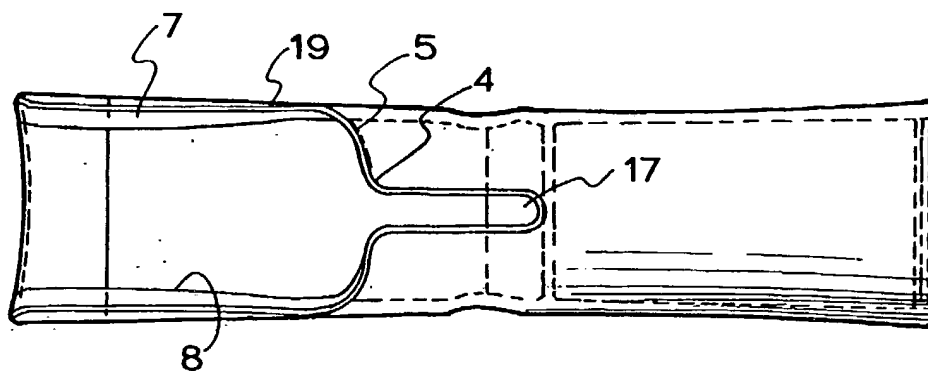


FIG. 2C.

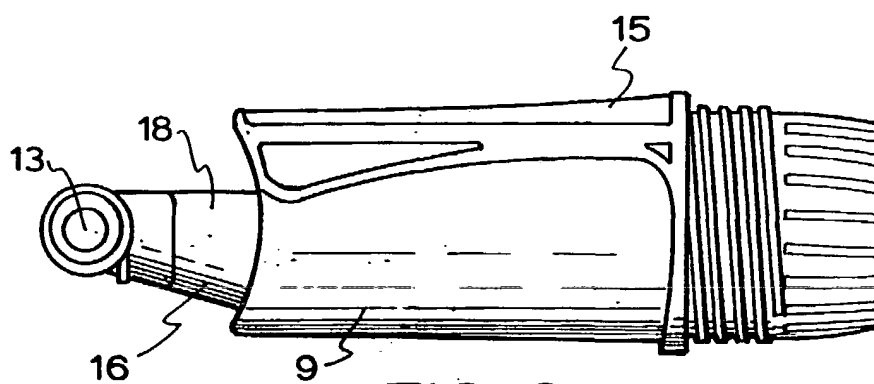


FIG. 2D.

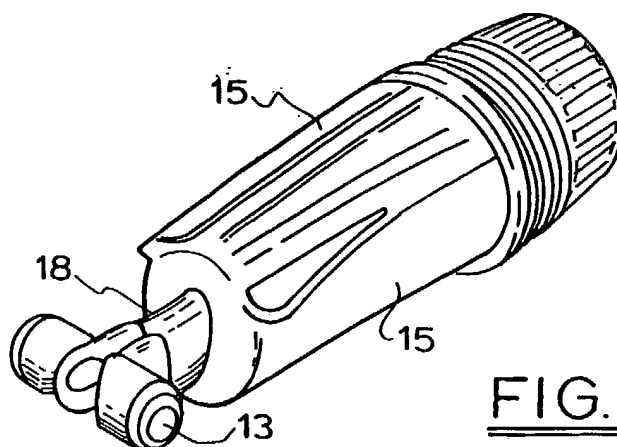


FIG. 2E.

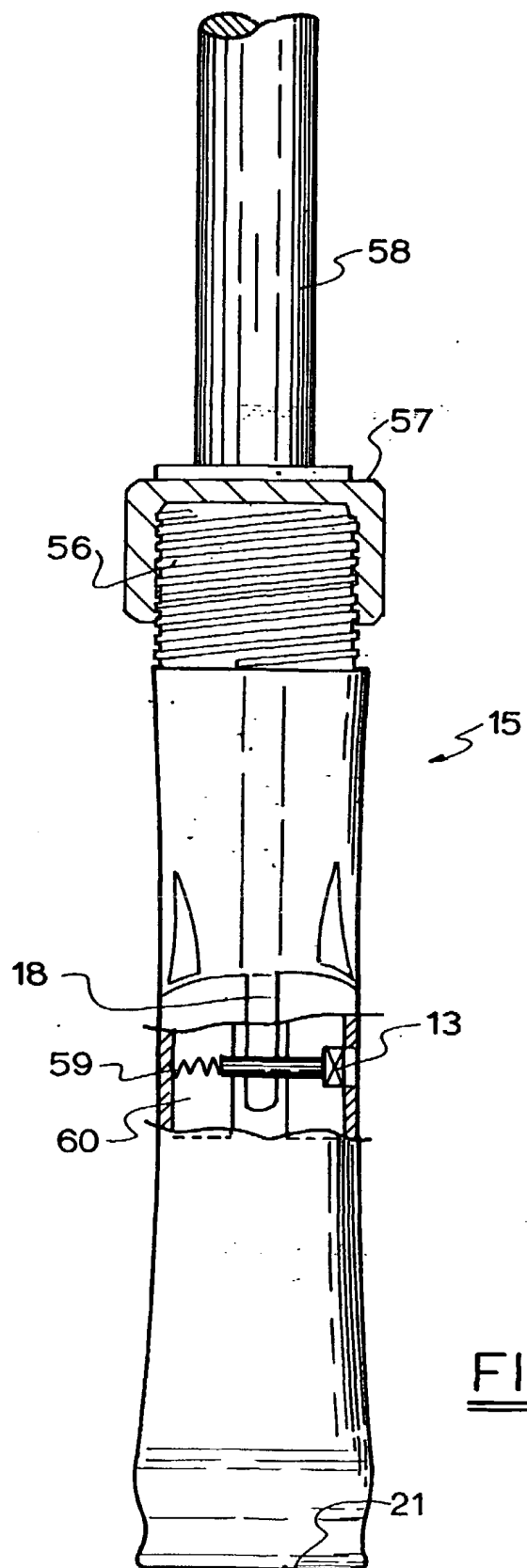


FIG. 2F.

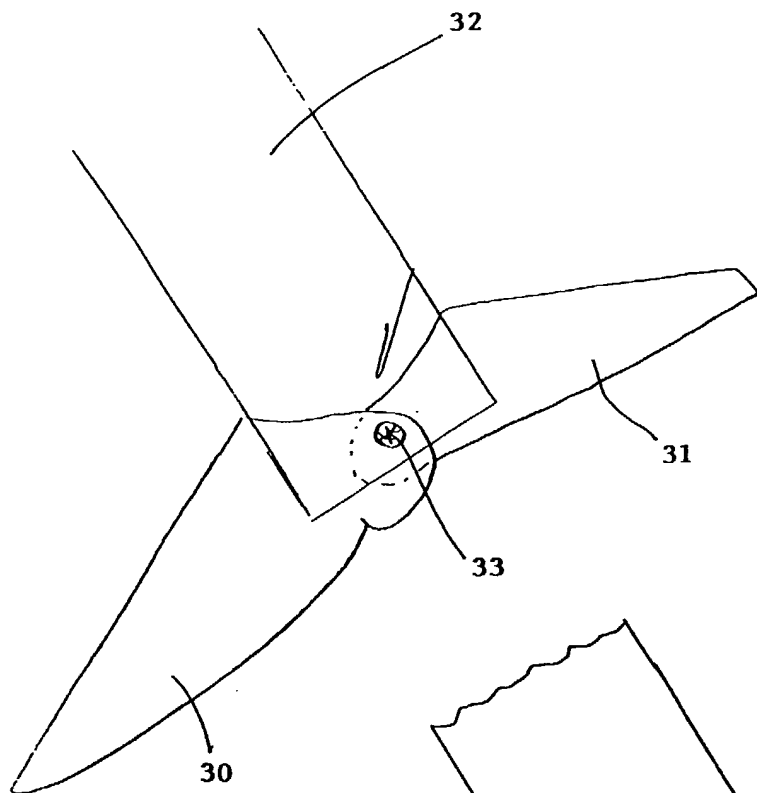


FIGURE 3

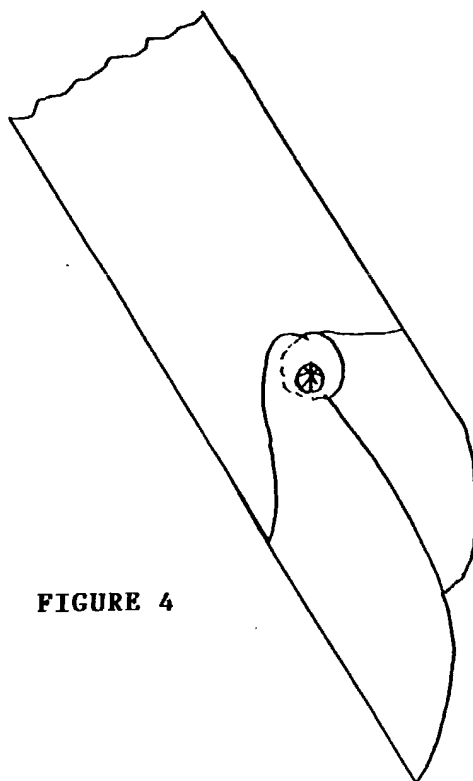
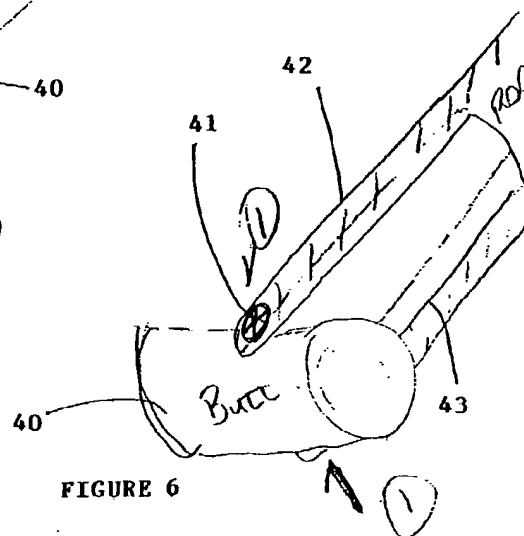
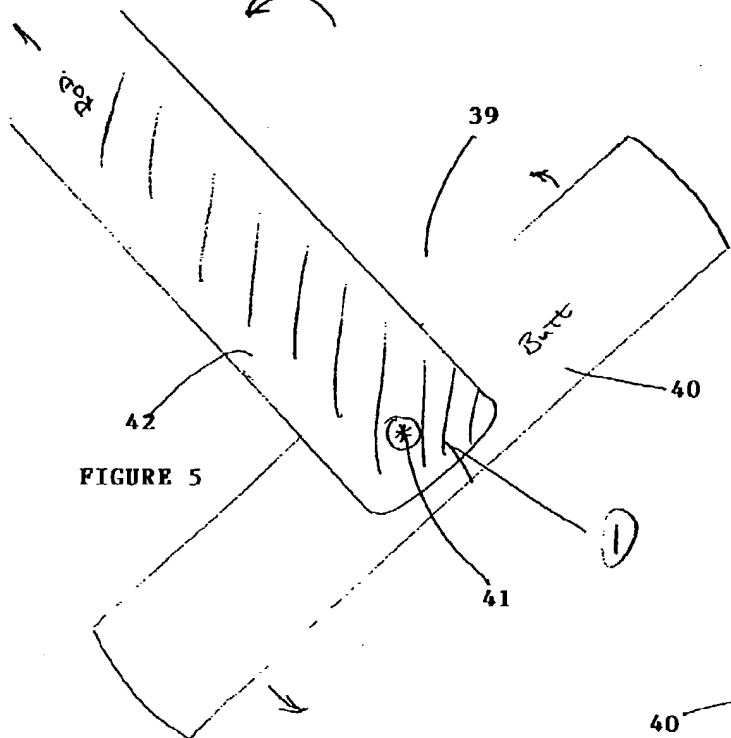
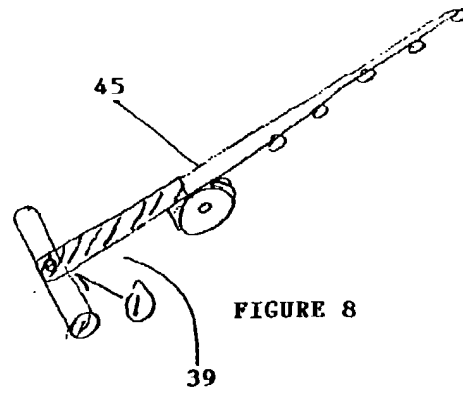
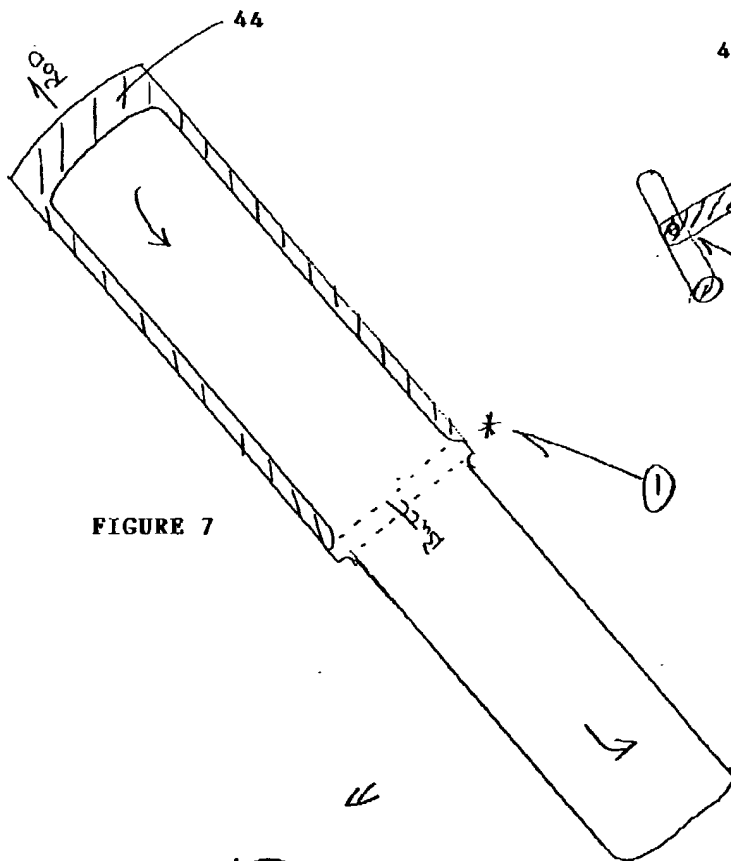


FIGURE 4



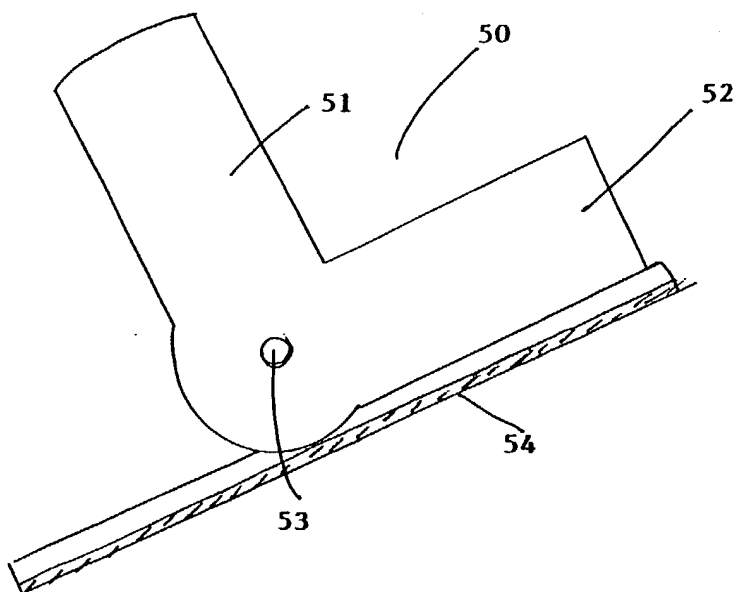


FIGURE 10

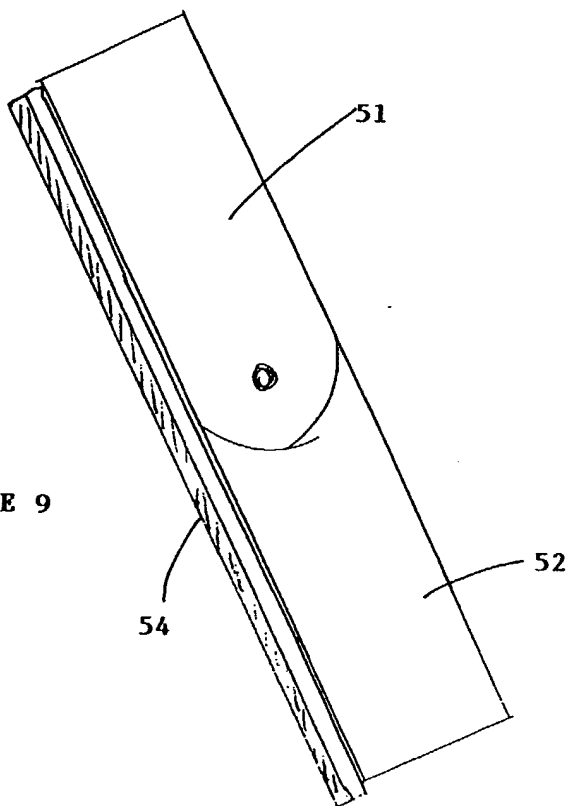


FIGURE 9

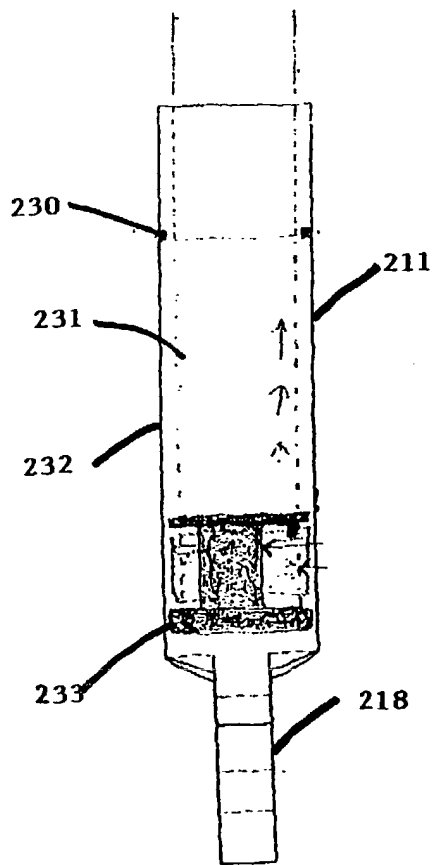


FIGURE 11A

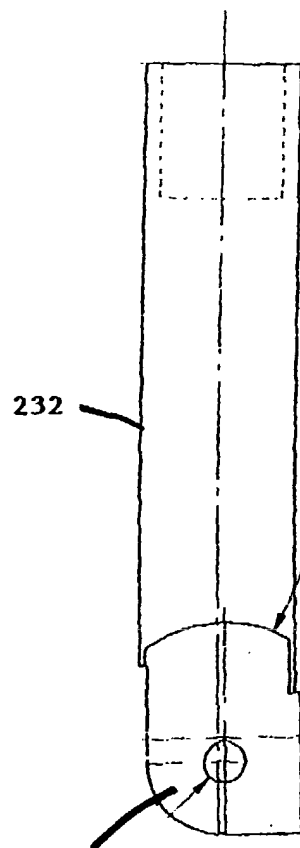
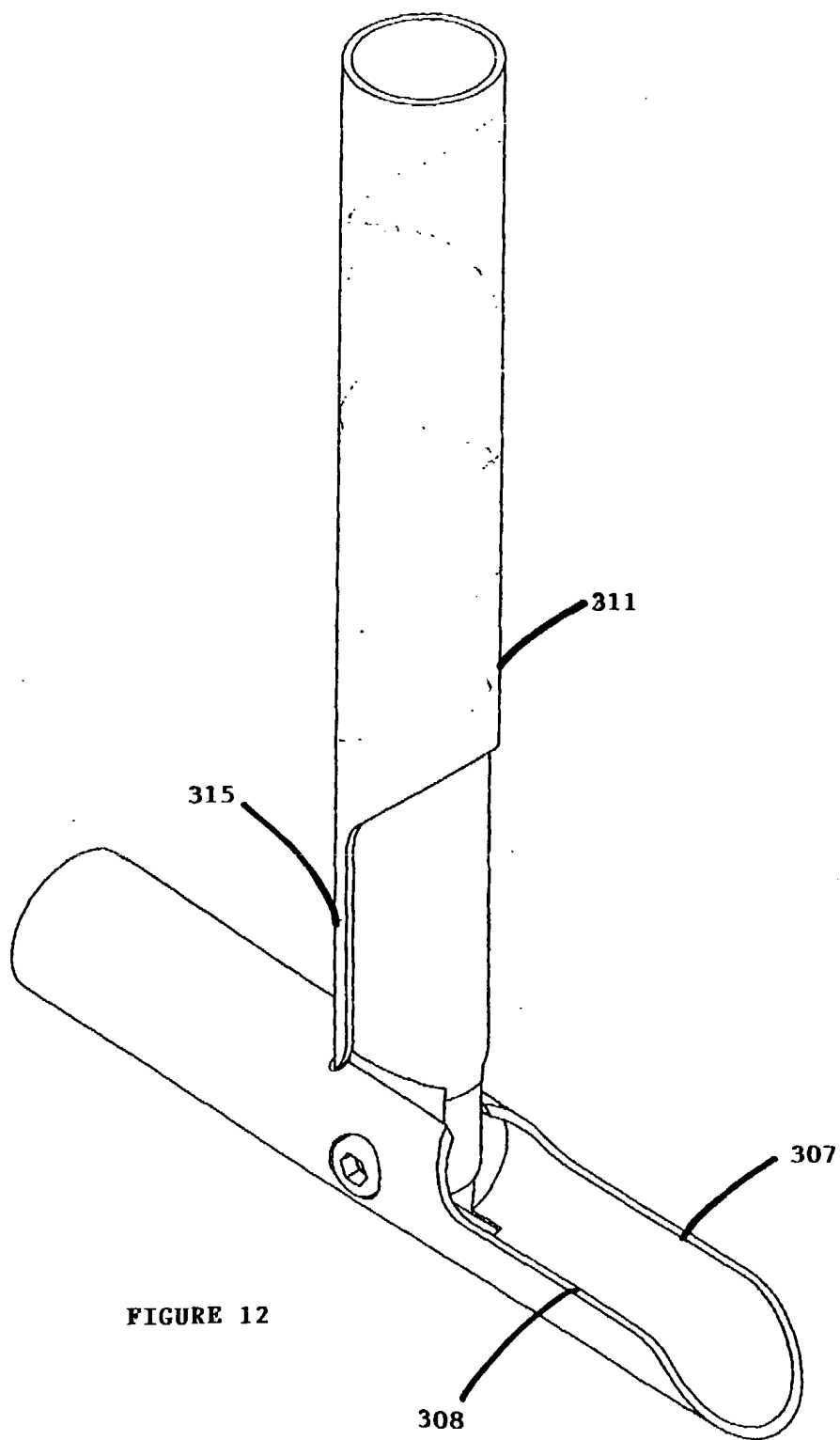


FIGURE 11B



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01265

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : A01K 97/10, 87/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI, US databases with keywords [cg A01K 87 (all), A01K 97/00, A01K 97/10, rod, support, pivot]		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	US 2539080 A (HOOVER) 23 January 1951 Entire document	1-19 20, 21
X Y	US 3287844 A (HOXTER) 29 November 1966 Entire document	1-4, 12-19 20, 21
Y	AU 53564/73 (469843) B (DAGGEEM, INC) 26 September 1974 Figures	20, 21
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 27 September 2002		Date of mailing of the international search report - 4 OCT 2002
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer A. SEN Telephone No : (02) 6283 2158

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01265

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 4498257 A (JEKEL) 12 February 1985 Entire document</p> <p>Note: the third document can be combined with either the first document or the second document for Claims 20 and 21</p>	1-21

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU02/01265

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member	
AU	53564/73	NONE	
US	4498257	CA	1221538
END OF ANNEX			